

DK-US040366

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
 :
 Tadashi SAO et al. :
 :
 Serial No New-Nat'l phase of :
 PCT/JP2005/009451 :
 :
 International filing date: May 24, 2005 :
 :
 For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND :
 AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED :
 THEREWITH (As Amended) :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

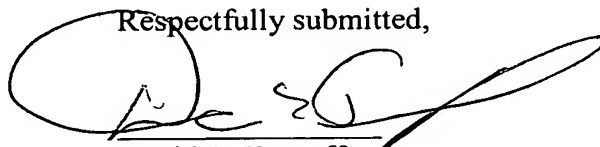
Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff
 Reg. No. 32,383

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
 Washington, DC 20036
 (202)-293-0444
 Dated: 5-30-06

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Complete if Known

Application Number	PC/J 2005/009451
Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005
First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	2	of	1
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No
		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No
		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes
		JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes
		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes
		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes

Date Considered

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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